

REMARKS

This application has been further carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 15, 2007. Claims 16, 18, 20, 21 and 22 are in the application, with Claim 22 having been added. Claims 16, 20 and 21 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 16 and 18 to 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,980,319 (Ohta) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,757,070 (Lin). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to selecting printing conditions for printing of image data downloaded from a server. According to the invention, the image data is downloaded to a client terminal, along with a recommended printing condition list that is related to printing of the downloaded image data. The recommended printing condition list is, for example, printing conditions that are permitted to be used by a printer driver program for printing of the downloaded image data. The client terminal then acquires printable condition information from a printer driver program corresponding to a connected printer, and utilizing the recommend printing condition list and the acquired printable condition information, the client terminal extracts a printing condition selection list from which a user can then select printing conditions for printing the image data. That is, the selection list is generated from conditions that are permitted to be used for printing the image data and printable conditions (i.e., capabilities) of the printer driver. As a result, the user can only print based on permissible conditions downloaded from the server and the capabilities of the driver.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 16 is directed to a communication apparatus, that communicates with an information providing apparatus via a network and connects to a printer, comprising a data selection unit constructed to select image data to be printed, which is stored in the information providing apparatus, a download unit constructed to download the image data selected by the data selection unit from the information providing apparatus, a storage unit constructed to store a printer driver program corresponding to the connected printer, a reception unit constructed to receive a recommended printing condition list related to printing of the downloaded image data from the information providing apparatus, an acquisition unit constructed to acquire printable condition information from the printer driver program stored in the storage unit, a list extraction unit constructed to extract a printing condition selection list from the recommended printing condition list received by the reception unit, on the basis of the printable condition information acquired by the acquisition unit, a condition selection unit constructed to select a printing condition from the printing condition selection list extracted by the list extraction unit, and a generation unit constructed to generate print data from the image data downloaded by the download unit, on the basis of the printing condition selected by the condition selection unit, by using the printer driver program.

Claims 20 and 21 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 16.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 16, 20 and 21, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a communication apparatus receiving a recommended printing condition list related to printing of the downloaded image data from

an information providing apparatus, the communication apparatus acquiring printable condition information from a printer driver program corresponding to a printer connected to the communication apparatus, the communication apparatus extracting a printing condition selection list from the received recommended printing condition list, on the basis of the acquired printable condition information, selecting a printing condition from the extracted printing condition selection list, and generating print data on the basis of the selected printing condition, by using the printer driver program.

Ohta is merely seen to disclose that a user receives, from a print server, an e-mail printing notice on a wireless device (telephone). The wireless device broadcasts a signal to search for printers in the vicinity of the user and printers near the device respond with characteristics information, such as their availability and printing resolution. The user of the wireless device can then select an appropriate printer near their vicinity, whereby the print server sends the print job to the selected printer for printout. The Advisory Action alleges that the provision of the printer characteristics corresponds to the claimed feature of receiving a recommended printing condition list. Applicant disagrees since the claims call for the communication apparatus receiving “from an information providing apparatus”, from which image data is downloaded, the recommended printing condition list. That is, the list is received from, for example, the server from which the image data is downloaded. Moreover, as amended, the list is related to printing of the downloaded image data (i.e., is specific to the data that is downloaded). In contrast, the characteristics of Ohta are provided by the printers, not the server. Additionally, the characteristics are specific to the printers themselves and bear no relation whatsoever to the print data. Thus, Ohta fails to teach the features of the claimed invention.

Lin is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Ohta, would have overcome Ohta's deficiencies. In this regard, Lin discloses a Universal Printing System capable of controlling a plurality of printers and printing a job using a Universal Print Driver. The use of the Universal Print Driver is to eliminate the need to install a plethora of print drivers for each type of printer on the network. In Lin, when a user wants to print, the UPD automatically opens a web browser. The user can then select a printer attached to a server in the web browser and can select various parameters for printing. The various printing options automatically match the facilities of the selected printer. However, much like Ohta, the printing conditions list of Lin is not seen to be related to printing of downloaded image data, but rather, is merely seen to be related to each printer. Thus, Lin is not seen to teach anything that, when combined with Ohta, would have resulted in the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 16, 20 and 21, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
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our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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